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Approved For Release 2004/05/22 : CIA-RDP63-00313A000500140033-6

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Project IDEALIST - Status

1. Project IDEALIST is the employment of the U-2 over denied areas to obtain high resolution photographic data of technical intelligence quality. Of increasing importance in recent years has been its secondary capability of SIGINT collection.

2. The Project has in its inventory nine U-2 aircraft, seven of which are J-75 configured with the two additional aircraft undergoing conversion to the J-75 configuration and modification for aircraft carrier operations. Four of the present J-75's now in the inventory are equipped for in-flight refueling. The camera system employed in the U-2 is a Hycon "B", 36" focal length f/10, with a 3 foot ground resolution.

3. While segregated from the SAC U-2 unit there is close coordination and mutual support in the areas of equipment and maintenance.

4. During recent years there has been a gradual increase in the use of this reconnaissance system, particularly the result of the U-2 flexibility in staging to any part of the world, on short notice, to meet "crash" intelligence collection requirements arising out of call/limited war situations. To enhance this flexibility, modifications are currently underway that will allow the U-2 to deploy, launch and recover on Navy carriers.

cc: EXO/NRO
DD/NRO
Compt/NRO

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